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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

BENZIE, CLARE, KALKASKA, LAKE, LEELANAU, MANISTEE,  
MECOSTA, MISSAUKEE, OSCEOLA, ROSCOMMON, WEXFORD

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
VICE-CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
VICE-CHAIR, HISTORY, ARTS, AND LIBRARIES  
COMMERCE AND LABOR  
FINANCE

**First-time hunters get new opportunities under Michigan law**  
Sen. Michelle McManus

Starting this fall, first-time hunters young and old have a new way to experience Michigan's rich hunting heritage. Michigan's new apprentice hunting program, signed into law on July 10, is a safe, responsible program that opens the door for more people to participate in the sport.

Under Senate Bill 1105, now Public Act 282, a person of legal hunting age has the option of applying for an apprentice hunting license if he or she has not previously held a standard hunter's license. A person hunting with an apprentice license would not have to complete a hunter's safety program before heading into the woods. Instead, he or she would have to be accompanied at all times by a fully licensed adult hunter, 21 years of age or older.

I'm proud to see this bill become law. Adult-supervised hunters have a proven track record of safety, and allowing first-time hunters the option to enter the woods under the watchful eye of a mentor is a great way to introduce them to the sport. The apprentice hunting program is just that – an introduction. For those who choose to continue to hunt after trying it with an apprentice license will still have to pass a hunter's safety course and obtain a standard hunting license.

The apprentice hunting program is a tremendous opportunity to promote our state's hunting heritage and reach out to new hunters. By giving first-time hunters the option to hunt with a mentor, we can expose people to the sport who might otherwise have never experienced it.

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